

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the official action dated March 14, 2007. Claims 1-6 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-6 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 6 have been amended, and claim 7 has been added. Claims 1-7 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Specification

Applicants have revised the specification to add a cross-reference to related applications. Applicants believe that the specification is now in compliance with all formality requirements.

Drawings

The objection to the drawings is noted and corrected in accordance with the replacement drawing sheets accompanying this Amendment.

Applicants have provided replacement drawing sheets including Figs. 7-12 for the corresponding previously filed drawing sheets. The replacement sheets amend Figs. 8-12 by inserting the label "Prior Art" for each figure.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the drawings are now in compliance with all formality requirements, and request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

§102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Behzad et al. (US Patent No. 6,472,940).

Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Behzad

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Behzad in view of Rowser et al. (US Patent No. 6,917,336).

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Behzad in view of Kakuta et al. (US Patent No. 6,028,487).

Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims 1, 2, and 6 are patentable over Behzad, Rowser, and Kakuta.

Applicants' invention as recited in claims 1, 2, and 6 is directed toward a variable-gain amplifier. The claims recite that the amplifier includes "FETs having respective gates for being supplied with an input signal ... the input signal supplied to the respective gates of the [FETs] being the same input signal."

Neither Behzad, Rowser, nor Kakuta discloses a variable-gain amplifier that includes "FETs having respective gates for being supplied with an input signal ... the input signal supplied to the respective gates of the [FETs] being the same input signal." In particular, Applicants note that Behzad's Fig. 14 shows FETs M1, M2, M3 ... MN being supplied with respective input signals, wherein the input signals supplied to each FET differs from FET-to-FET. For example, the signal input to FET M1 differs from the input signal input to FET M2 because of the voltage drop across resistor R1921.

Since neither Behzad, Rowser, nor Kakuta discloses a variable-gain amplifier that includes "FETs having respective gates for being supplied with an input signal ... the input signal supplied to the respective gates of the [FETs] being the same input signal," Applicants believe that claims 1, 2, and 6 are patentable over Behzad, Rowser, and Kakuta - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, Applicants submit that the dependent claims 3-5 are patentable over Behzad, Rowser, and Kakuta for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with claims 1, 2, and 6.

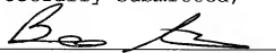
Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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